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silicone compounds, polyolefin compounds, and inorganic fillers, and that the materials are bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of the materials into the adhesive. Dependent claims 17 and 18 have been amended to remove the recitation that the materials are incorporated into the plastic film as additives as unnecessary in view of the amendment to claim 15, on which these claims depend. In addition, claim 16 has been canceled. Support for the claims can be found, inter alia, in the disclosure at page 2, fifth paragraph. Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

Claims 15-17, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Berger et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,726,710*. In addition, claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Berger et al.*

In response, Applicant has amended the claims to make clear that the materials having release properties are bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of the materials into the adhesive. The Examiner states that she is relying on the composition of *Berger et al.* itself as the plastic film recited in Applicant's claim 15. However, in Applicant's film as set forth in claim 15, the material which produces the release characteristics is incorporated into the polymers forming the film. These polymers do not have the release characteristics but rather the materials which produce the release characteristics

are mixed in during the production (extruding) of the plastics. These release materials, which may be silicone compounds, polyolefin compounds and inorganic fillers, are anchored relatively tightly in the plastics and during storage diffuse into the neighboring adhesive to only a small extent, if at all. Moreover, *Berger et al.* requires his composition to be coated on the substrate whereas Applicant's film may be formed as a self-carrying layer with the released materials incorporated therein as well as being formed on a relatively thin plastic layer which can be attached to a carrying layer by coextrusion. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that *Berger et al.* fails to anticipate claims 15, 17, 19 and 21 or render obvious claim 22.

Claims 15, 16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Friedman et al. EP 0 622 411 A2.* In addition, claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Friedman et al.* However, *Friedman et al.* does not disclose release materials being bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of the materials into the adhesive when the film is disposed thereon. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that *Friedman et al.* fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicant's plastic film as recited in claims 15, 18-20 and 22.

Claims 15-17, 19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Higgins.* However, *Higgins* does

not show release materials "incorporated within" a plastic film and "bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of said materials into the adhesive when said film is disposed thereon". Moreover, *Higgins* requires the release layers to be disposed on a polymeric substrate whereas Applicant's film with the release materials incorporated therein as additives can be made into a self-carrying layer as well as being formed as a relatively thin plastic layer which can be attached to a carrying layer by coextrusion. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that *Higgins* fails to anticipate claims 15, 17, 19, 21 and 22.

Claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 23-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Adamko et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,948,517*. However, *Adamko et al.* simply uses a selected class of linear low-density polymers with release film properties to form a release film made from those polymers. *Adamko et al.* must use these specific linear low density polymers without silicone to form his release film. In contrast, however, as recited in Applicant's independent claims 15, 23 and 31, Applicant's are incorporating materials having release properties as additives within the plastic film. The materials, which may include silicone, are bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of the materials into the adhesive, such as during periods of storage. *Adamko et al.* does not incorporate into the plastic film as additives materials for producing release properties as recited in Applicant's claims. Hence, it

is respectfully submitted that *Adamko et al.* fails to anticipate claims 15, 18, 19, 21 and 23-31.

In summary, claim 16 has been canceled and claims 15, 17, 18, 23 and 31 have been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Exhibit A
Copy of Petition for 3 Month Extension of Time (Large Entity)

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 14, 2002.

Frederick J. Dorchak

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EXHIBIT A

Marked-up Version of Amended Claims
15, 17, 18, 23 and 31 Showing the Changes Made

15. (Twice amended) A plastic film adapted to be releasably disposed on an adhesive, comprising materials having release properties towards adhesives, wherein the materials having release properties are selected from the group consisting of silicone compounds, polyolefin compounds and inorganic fillers, are incorporated as additives within the plastic film, and are extruded together with said film, said materials being bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of said materials into the adhesive when said film is disposed thereon.

17. (Twice amended) The plastic film according to claim 15, wherein the materials having the release properties [are incorporated into the plastic film as additives and] comprise silicone compounds.

18. (Twice amended) The plastic film according to claim 15, wherein the materials having the release properties [are incorporated into the plastic film as additives and] comprise polyolefin compounds.

23. (Twice amended) A method of making a plastic film, comprising the steps of:

forming a mixture containing materials having release properties and polymers adapted to form a plastic film, said materials being selected from the group consisting of silicone compounds, polyolefin compounds and inorganic fillers; and

polymerizing the polymers to incorporate the materials having release properties as additives into the plastic film,

said materials being bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of said materials into the adhesive when said film is disposed thereon.

31. (Twice amended) A plastic film having a first side and a second side, comprising:

a release layer coextruded with a substrate and disposed on the first side of the plastic film, said release layer comprising materials having release properties incorporated as additives within the release layer before extrusion of the release layer, wherein said [release layer is] materials are selected from the group consisting of [a modified polymer,] a silicone compound, [and] a polyolefin additive, and an inorganic filler; and

an adhesive layer disposed on the second side of the plastic film;

said materials being bound within the film so as to prevent substantial diffusion of said materials into said adhesive layer.